SAFETY AT WORK

Permit-Required Confined Spaces

29 CFR 1910.146

What is a Confined Space?

A confined space is a space that:

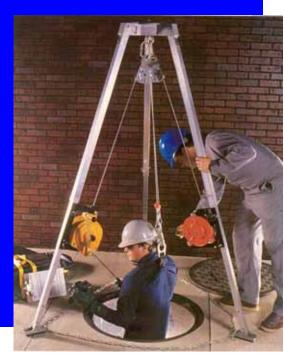
- 1. Is large enough so all or part of your body can get in to do work.
- 2. Has limited means of getting in and out (you can't just walk out).
- 3. Is not designed for continuous human occupancy.

If a confined space does not contain any of the safety or health hazards listed below (i.e. there is NO WAY that any hazards capable of causing a serious injury or death are in the space) OSHA does not require you to follow a confined space plan.

BUT, if a confined space also ...

Contains or has the potential to contain 1) a hazardous atmosphere, 2) a material that could engulf a person, 3) an internal configuration that narrows down to a small area where a person could be trapped or asphyxiated, or 4) contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard...

...you must follow a written permit-required confined space program and use a permit when entering the space for any reason!



What is involved in a permit-required confined space program?

- 1) Make sure you know **all** the hazards that may be in the space you are entering.
 - · Bad air or chemicals in the space,
 - Electrical & mechanical hazards,
 - Substances that can engulf or trap an entrant in the space.
- 2) Develop procedures for safely entering and performing work in permit spaces.
 - Specify what entry conditions will be acceptable and verify that the space is safe before entry,
 - Isolate the space from all sources of energy, chemicals, etc.
 - Develop procedures to control atmospheric hazards,
 - Develop procedures to work with other employers in a space.
- 3) Develop a permit system for all entries.
 - A system to prepare, issue, use, and cancel permits,
 - · A permit that has all the required

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What is involved in a permit-required confined space program? (continued)

- 4) Provide all the necessary equipment to work in the spaces.
 - Testing & monitoring equipment,
 - Ventilating equipment,
 - Personal protective equipment,
 - · Communications equipment,
 - Rescue & emergency equipment,
 - Other equipment as necessary.
- 5) Evaluate permit space conditions when entries are made.
 - Test the conditions in the space to determine if acceptable entry conditions exist before entry,
 - Test the conditions throughout the entry.
- 6) Provide at least one attendant outside the space during entries.
 - An attendant must be outside the space for the duration of the entry.
- Designate the persons who will have responsibilities during permit-space entries and train them.
 - Identify the duties of all authorized entrants, attendants, entry supervisors, persons who test the atmosphere and operate other equipment,
 - Train these persons in the details and procedures of their responsibilities during entries.
- 8) Develop procedures for summoning rescue and emergency services.
 - Arrange for trained rescue and emergency services to be available throughout all entries.
- Review the program annually and revise it to ensure the safety of everyone involved in confined space entries.
 - Use cancelled permits from the past year to monitor, review, and revise the program to ensure employees are being protected from the hazards.

What training is required to work in a permit-required confined space?

<u>Everyone involved</u> with an entry must be trained in the following:

- What hazards may be faced during entry,
- How to identify the signs and symptoms, of exposure to hazards in the space,
- The consequences of exposure to hazards in the space,
- How to properly use all equipment involved in the entry,
- How to communicate with the attendants and entrants involved in the entry,
- When to alert the entrant or attendant that something may be wrong,
- When exit from the space is required and how to signal that exit.

In addition to the training listed above, the <u>attendants</u> must be trained in the following:

- What possible behavioral effects may result from exposure to the hazards,
- How to continually maintain an accounting of who is in the space,
- How to monitor the activities inside and outside the space to determine if it is still safe to continue the entry,
- How to summon rescue and emergency services,
- How to perform non-entry rescue.

In addition, entry supervisors must be trained in the following:

- How to verify that the permit has been completed correctly and that all hazards have been controlled before allowing entry to begin,
- When and how to cancel the permit,
- How to verify that rescue and emergency services are available and that the means for summoning them are operable,
- How to determine that acceptable entry conditions are maintained throughout the entry.